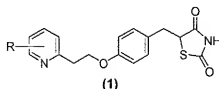


IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a thiazolidinedione[[s]] compound of formula 1



wherein R represents straight chain or branched alkyl group of one to six carbon atoms, comprising such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, iso-propyl, butyl, iso-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, hexyl, preferably the lower alkyl groups of one to three carbon atoms, more preferably R represents 5-ethyl, when the compound of formula 1 represents pioglitazone, which involves



reducing a [[the]] compound of formula 14 or its salt[[s]], where X represents OH, Cl, Br, OMs[[,]] or [[and]] OTs with a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of metallic reducing agents in acid and catalytic agents in solvents to the compound of formula 1.

2. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reducing agent is zinc or reduction is carried out using zinc and acetic acid in an alcoholic solvent[[s]] selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, water and or their mixtures thereof or catalytic hydrogenation with Raney Nickel, 10% Pd/C in solvents such as MeOH, EtOH, isopropanol, THF.

3. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of compound of formula 1 as claimed in claim 1 further wherein X represents OH, Cl, Br, OMs, and OTs, comprising reducing chemoselectively a

i) ~~chemoselective reduction of the compound of formula 13, where X is as defined earlier, to obtain the compound of formula 14~~



ii) —Reduction of compound of formula **14** as claimed in claim 1 to obtain the compound of formula **4**.

4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim [[3]] 1 wherein R represents 5-ethyl the reduction of compound of formula 13 to obtain compound of formula 14 is carried out by reacting 13 with metal borohydrides selected from sodium borohydride, lithium borohydride, potassium borohydride, tetraalkyl borohydride, zinc borohydride, in presence of suitable cobalt catalyst selected from cobaltous chloride, cobaltous acetate and cobaltic chloride in suitable solvent selected from methanol, ethanol, iso-propanol, acetone, DMF and THF either alone or in combination thereof, optionally in the presence of suitable ligands selected from 2,2'-bipyridyl, 1,10-phenanthroline and dimethyl glyoxime at 50 to 100°C or by using Raney nickel, palladium charcoal, palladium black, palladium sulfate, palladium carbonate, barium sulfate, barium carbonate, platinum oxide or platinum on carbon in solvents selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, dioxane, dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, ethyl acetate, acetic acid, dimethyl formamide, N-methyl pyrrolidine, either alone or in combinations thereof at 50 to 100°C.

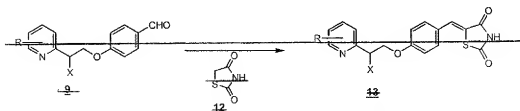
5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catalytic agent is Raney nickel or 10% Pd/C in a solvent selected from the group consisting of MeOH, EtOH, isopropanol and THF, ~~of preparation of compound of formula 1~~ by catalytic reduction of the compound of formula **13**, where X represents OH, Cl, Br, OMe, and

OTs, & R represents straight chain or branched alkyl group of one to six carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, *iso*-propyl, butyl, *iso*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, pentyl, *iso*-pentyl, neo-pentyl, hexyl, preferably the lower alkyl groups of one to three carbon atoms, more preferably R represents *is*-ethyl, using Raney Ni or 10% Pd-C in alcoholic solvents to obtain the compound of formula 1 directly.



6. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of compound of formula 1 as claimed in claim [[1]] 5 wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of metal borohydrides in the presence of a cobalt catalyst in a solvent at 50 to 100°C, which involves

- i) — condensation of a compound of formula 9, with 2,4 thiazolidinedione of formula 12, in suitable solvents selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, 2-propanol, butanol, *iso*-butanol, 2-methoxyethanol, dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane, acetonitrile, dioxalane, dimethoxyethane, toluene, acetic acid or their mixtures thereof, in presence of an organic base selected from ammonia, methyl amine, ethyl amine, *n*-butyl amine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, pyridine, morpholine, piperazine, diethylamine, di-isopropyl amine or triethyl amine and catalytic amount of organic acid selected from acetic acid, *p*-toluene sulfonic acid, hydrochloric acid, or hydrobromic acid to obtain compound of formula 13.

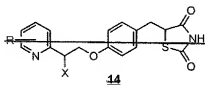


- ii) — chemoselective reduction of the compound of formula 13, as claimed in any preceding claims above to obtain 14.



iii) ~~Reduction of compound of formula 14 as claimed in claim 1 to obtain the compound of formula 1.~~

7. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the reduction with metal borohydride is carried out in the presence of a ligand selected from the group consisting of 2,2'-bipyridyl, 1,10-phenanthroline and dimethyl glyoxime. A compound of formula 14, or its salts, where X represents Cl, Br, OMs, and OTs and R represents straight chain or branched alkyl group of one to six carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, *iso*-propyl, butyl, *iso*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, pentyl, *iso*-pentyl, neo-pentyl, hexyl, preferably lower alkyl groups of one to three carbon atoms.



8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein the reducing agent is a



metal catalyst selected from the group consisting of Raney nickel, palladium charcoal, palladium black, palladium sulfate, palladium carbonate, barium sulfate, barium carbonate, platinum oxide and platinum on carbon in a solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, dioxane, dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, ethyl acetate, acetic acid, dimethyl formamide, N-methyl pyrrolidine and combinations thereof at 50 to 100°C. A compound as claimed in claim 6 wherein R represents 5-ethyl;

Claims 9-22 (canceled)